

From
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To:
Instructional Quality Commission,
Department of Education,
Sacramento, CA

SUBJECT

Please Register My Objection To CHSSP's Comment #2439, #2480, #2730, #2734 To Replace Hinduism
by Ancient Indian religions.
Also Register My Doubts on Timing.
My Specific Suggestions Below.

I have just become aware this week of an unprecedented attempt to replace Hinduism by another set words in History and Social Sciences Framework, that are not recognizable by practitioners like me, neither in California nor in the world .

Specifically I am referring to CHSSP's comment #2439, #2480, #2730, #2734

For example #2439, Pages 212-213, lines 836-837:

Current text: "Teachers focus students on the question: How did the religion of Hinduism support individuals, rulers, and societies?"

*Change that CHSSP recommended (referring to South Asia group's submission): "Teachers focus students on the question: How did the religion of **Ancient India** support individuals, rulers, and societies?"*

Also suggested by South Asian scholars' group: "Teachers focus students on the question: How did the religion of the Vedas support individuals, rulers, and societies?"

*CDE Comment: The group submitted **two contradictory suggestions** for this sentence.*

I call upon you to **REJECT** this suggestion. While thousands of Hindus and non Hindus with Indian origin would provide you with numerous facts and reasons, below are my points behind the ask considering limited time window.

1. Is it fair to **disconnect the Old Testament from Christians**? The word "Christian" came into existence only in New Testament, but it would be inaccurate to conclude that Christians can not use Old Testament as they got the name only after that.
2. Hindus of India (India - this term is referred in **History Social Sciences** Framework, **not a Political** or merely **Geographical one**. Please read on similar lines to **Greece** or **Rome** in Framework. Thus South Asia is irrelevant in Historical context) followed a principles and

practices that are derived from the text that they called Vedas which were composed more than 2000 years ago.

3. These people called their traditions and practices as Sanatana dharma (eternal tradition). Here I need you to note that dharma does **not** have a **corresponding** all encompassing meaningful word in English language.
4. They have **referred to themselves or referred by others** in **post Vedic period** as 'Hindu' or 'Indic' or 'Hindavi' or 'Hintu' or 'People of Indus' etc. Although naming changed gradually, there is **continuity in practices followed** and **not a radical break** in beliefs that happens when religion changes.
5. Vedic rituals and passages such as Gayatri Mantra, sankalpa mantra (before any event) etc. have been practiced without any break **by Hindus till today**, and are integral part of religious practices.
6. On the other hand, **Jainism and Buddhism do not follow Vedic texts** and practices unlike Hinduism.
7. In fact **Mahabharat (Geeta) refers to Vedas**. Mahabharat and Geeta are highly revered by Hindus along with Vedic texts.
8. The children are getting introduction to world religions for the first time through the 6th grade Framework. Therefore using multiple nomenclature for referring to Hinduism **would create confusion instead of educating them**.
9. If this happens, it will **be unprecedented in the History of Education** as a non mainstream shall be coined in the California Education system, overriding the considerations such as above.
10. When the South Asian group suggestions are contradictory, I'd like to understand the basis of considering this suggestion.
11. Please refer to the same reasoning for **CHSSP's suggestions #2439, #2480, #2730, #2734**.
12. What is the reason to disconnect Hinduism with this late in the Framework modification cycle. [Please register my doubt on the hasty and seemingly calculated way being practiced](#) to accommodate such a radical suggestion. Why is this coming based on suggestions made by South Asia group in Feb, when the public knows about it in mid March ahead of the hearing that is to come on 24th March? The process has been in progress since late 2014.

All this means that current practices and tradition of people of Indian civilization known to world as Hindus, have an unbroken history. The principles and practices have been of ancient India can only be called Hinduism.

Therefore, like thousands of Hindus in California, **I register strong objection** in this suggestion. I request you **REJECT** the reference "religions of ancient india" in the text and use "religion of Hinduism" in the text and avoid bias and confusion in the minds of students.

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